

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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- ✓ 1. An inactivated virus particle, as a reinforced immunogen, prepared from a culture of cells infected with virus belonging to a group of Japanese encephalitis viruses, wherein a neutralizing antibody titer of the anti-serum obtained by immunization with the virus particles is about twice to about 10 times the neutralizing antibody titer of the anti-serum obtained by immunization with inactivated virus particles prepared from virus cultured in mouse brain.
  - ✓ 2. A method for producing an inactivated virus particle, comprising culturing virus belonging to a group of Japanese encephalitis viruses in a cell line, as well as inactivating and purifying the cell culture, wherein a neutralizing antibody titer of the anti-serum obtained by immunization with the virus particles is about twice to about 10 times the neutralizing antibody titer of the anti-serum obtained by immunization with inactivated virus particles prepared from virus cultured in mouse brain.
  3. The method of claim 2, wherein the cell line is a Vero cell.
  4. The method of claim 2 ~~or 3~~, wherein the inactivating is conducted before the purifying.
  5. The method of any of claims 2 to 4, wherein the inactivating is conducted at a temperature in a range of about 4°C to about 10°C.
  6. The method of any of claims 2 to 5, wherein the purifying
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is conducted by physical means.

7. The method of any of ~~claims~~ 2 to 6, wherein the virus belonging to a group of Japanese encephalitis viruses is a Beijing strain or a ThCMAR67/93 strain of Japanese encephalitis virus.

8. An inactivated virus particle produced by the production method of any of ~~claims~~ 2 to 7.

9. An inactivated vaccine comprising the inactivated virus particles of claim 1 or 8.

10. A diagnostic agent for infectious disease caused by a group of Japanese encephalitis viruses, comprising the entirety or a part of the inactivated virus particles of claim 8 as an antigen.

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